



LS SUGGESTS

# The magic of colourful china

After a long day of tiring work, nothing gets my mood right like a cup of tea in my cerulean blue china. Be any occasion -- a dinner for two or just a tea date with a friend, my set of pink plates and yellow cups never fails to uplift us either.

Bangladesh is famous for its china. Brands like Akij, Monno, People, and Standard Ceramics can be found in homes all over the world. While almost every family has a generic set of white/off-white plates and tableware, the ones that stand out are the ones that are colourful and vibrant.

Now, if you are like me and you love to add a creative spark to dinner as well as to the rest of your home, then you are in luck.

Pack away the dull white dinnerware you have and think festive. Replace the off-white bowls with ones having bright, purple polka dots and enliven the atmosphere of an otherwise mundane occasion. There are a plethora of designs to choose from. Starting from bottle green plates with concentric yellow circles to blue and orange abstract patterned china one can find anything that catches the eye and the mind.

The wide variety of colours can suit any home and any creative style. Why not serve snacks in tiny blue, green and yellow patterned bowls? A sleek jet black bowl can act as a centerpiece for an intimate dinner for two, filled with pebbles, potpourri or even just simple fruit.

Of course colourful tableware can also be used as decorative pieces themselves and not just for food. You can use a small bowl of orange floral to serve as makeshift candle holders -- accessorising a romantic dinner for two. Even a simple plate can be used as a wall decoration with the right amount of glue.

Colourful tableware can be found all over the country - Aarong is replete with



them, carrying mugs, bowls, plates and other accessories for any homemaker. The designs and colours reflect their aesthetics of traditional Bengali culture with motifs evoking our cultural past.

Prices range from Tk200 to Tk500 for bowls and plates and tea sets are around Tk1200-2000. Centrepieces and vases cost around Tk500 to Tk1000.

Companies like Standard, Monno and People Ceramics have a wide variety of colourful tableware at reasonable prices - single colour cups of cost between Tk.30 and Tk.60 and so are suitable for use in decoration based on any colour scheme. Bright yellow tea sets cost around Tk600.

Lastly, in my humble opinion, the best place to get edgy and creative tableware is Clay Image at Sunrise Plaza. Clay Image is much lauded for their original and inspired designs and they remain at the pinnacle.

At Clay Image, you will feel as though you have walked into a kaleidoscope of colours - the walls and shelves are festooned with eye-catching tableware, which are also pieces of art.

Starting from big plates to tiny cups, they have everything. The colours are well contrasted. Plates of varying sizes cost from Tk150 onwards and they also sell special mugs with abstract art to commemorate friends and family.

Even though fine china is absolutely necessary for those special moments, sometimes a change is in order and having a set of colourful china can work wonders. The right set of tableware can bring life to an otherwise drab dinner and can even be used to add zest to any room with volcanic appeal.

By Mormee Mahtab

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed